Trump's plans to roll back climate funds are a 'fool's errand', says former White House climate adviser

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Body

Former White House National Climate Adviser Gina McCarthy has slammed President-elect Donald Trump's proposed rollback of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds as a "fool's errand". During a call with U.S. climate leaders, she vowed to fight any attempts to undo progress made on climate action and clean energy investments.

McCarthy, who is now the managing co-chair of the U.S climate coalition America Is All In, stressed the importance of the IRA in generating billions of dollars in public and private investments in clean energy. "Federal policies have led to $910 billion in public and private sector investments all across the country," she said, highlighting how these investments have greatly benefitted Republican-led districts.

In fact, more than 330,000 jobs have been created as a result. McCarthy argues that these figures demonstrate the clear benefits of clean energy for businesses, local economies, and all Americans. "It's absolutely undeniable," she stated.

However, Trump has previously pledged to "rescind all unspent funds under the misnamed Inflation Reduction Act." This declaration has caused alarm among climate and environmental groups.

The National Resources Defense Council, World Resources Institute, Sunrise Movement, and other organizations have voiced concerns over the potential climate impacts of a second Trump administration.

State leaders also expressed their determination to continue tackling climate change. Governors Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico and Jay Inslee of Washington, both members of the U.S. Climate Alliance, reaffirmed their states' commitment to clean energy and emissions reduction.

Inslee described Trump as a "speed bump on the road to progress towards a clean energy economy." Lujan Grisham also echoed this sentiment, stating that regardless of federal leadership, they will continue their commitments. As Trump prepares his policy agenda for his second term in office, the future of the IRA hangs in the balance. Nevertheless, local and private sector leaders are signaling their readiness to uphold momentum in clean energy and climate action.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has been a cornerstone of the Biden administration's climate strategy, directing billions of dollars into clean energy initiatives nationwide. The importance of this federal policy is underscored by the $910 billion in public and private sector investments it has facilitated and the creation of more than 330,000 jobs,

largely in Republican-led districts. These figures reflect not just a commitment to environmental sustainability, but a significant economic impact that crosses partisan lines.

However, Trump's declared intention to rescind all unspent funds under the IRA could significantly disrupt this progress. For the second time, his administration seems set to challenge the consensus on climate action, echoing his earlier rollbacks of environmental regulations during his first term as president.

While such a move would undeniably impact national efforts to tackle the climate crisis, there is a growing chorus of local and private sector leaders who are committed to continuing the charge. Organizations like the National Resources Defense Council and World Resources Institute have already expressed their intent to persevere despite potential federal setbacks.

This reflects a broader trend: Despite wavering federal commitment to climate action in recent years, state and local governments, along with private sector entities, have increasingly taken up the mantle. This resilience is exemplified by governors like Michelle Lujan Grisham and Jay Inslee, who view potential federal rollbacks as mere "speed bumps" on their respective paths towards a clean energy economy.

In a world increasingly aware of climate change and its far-reaching implications, these leaders and organizations are sending a clear message: Climate action is not just a federal responsibility-it's a collective one. The future of the IRA may be uncertain under a second Trump administration, but the commitment to climate progress at various other levels of American society stands firm. This shift towards localised action could redefine how the U.S. approaches its climate goals in years to come. For more on how state-level actions are evolving in response to federal changes, check out this detailed analysis here.

The standoff over the Inflation Reduction Act underlines the high stakes of climate policy in an increasingly divided nation. The act's potential rollback by the incoming Trump administration could slow down national efforts, but it also underscores the growing role of state and local governments, as well as private sector entities, in driving climate progress.

Despite federal policy shifts, these groups are demonstrating that climate action remains a pressing priority across various levels of American society. As the country prepares for a potential policy pivot, this groundswell of support could be a powerful force in maintaining momentum towards a cleaner, greener future.

The question now is: Can localised action fill the void if federal commitment falters? As America enters a new chapter in its climate journey, the answer to this question could shape the nation's environmental and economic landscape for years to come. It serves as a reminder that navigating the challenges of climate change requires collective effort, transcending political divides. As the story unfolds, the resilience and adaptability of America's climate leaders will surely be put to the test.

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